

February 27, 2023

Appropriations Committee

H.B. No. 6659 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR.

Danielle Laperche

My name is Danielle Laperche and I am a 4th and 5th grade classroom teacher at Breakthrough Magnet School North in Hartford, Connecticut. I am writing in support of funding for the CT Grown for CT Kids Grants Program within the CT Department of Agriculture.

This year my class has embarked on a yearlong Capstone Project on the following topics: Farm to Table, Healthy Eating, and Farming. Thus far in the project process, our class has harvested vegetables from our school garden for a school wide Soup Event, our class has begun a hydroponics system which will contribute to our culminating Salad Event, we have begun Composting for our school, we have researched the Farm to Table Movement/Composting/Hydroponics/Healthy Eating, and students have contributed to a journal about observations on our hydroponic system and composting data. This project has allowed students the opportunity to learn about healthy eating through hands-on experiences of harvesting vegetables, preparing vegetables to then be cooked for consumption. In addition, the hydroponics system allows students to gain responsibility for the plants as well as learning about another way to produce healthy eating options.

The CT Grown for CT Kids Grant is an important source of funding for schools to have this opportunity. The more schools can expose their students to healthy eating and opportunities for students to learn through hands-on experiences, the more students can begin to understand the importance of this in their day to day lives. I believe this Capstone Project experience has given an opportunity to my students that they may not have otherwise had. Exposing students to the Farm to Table Movement and Healthy Eating through opportunities like this one will enrich not only their educational experiences but also make an impact on their lives overall.

Danielle Laperche, 4/5 Teacher

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